

REMARKS

Claims 1- 21 are currently pending in connection with the present application. Claims are independent claims. By this amendment, claims 1 and 11 have been amended and claims 22 and 23 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Summary of Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Opsasnick for his time on September 19, 2005, the contents of which are summarized below. Prior to the interview, Applicants' representative provided discussion points on the merits of claims 21-23 not considered previously. At the interview, no agreement was reached as to the allowability of claims 1 and 11, however, the Examiner was receptive to arguments directed to claims 22 and 23, and indicated that a new search would be done on claims 1-21, pending the amendments to claims 1 and 11 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 22 and 23 which should have been considered previously. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 as discussed during the interview.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner failed to address claims 21-23 included in the last amendment. During the Examiner's interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 22 and 23 with clarity amendments include subject matter that appears to overcome the prior art of record. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended, consistent with the discussion with the Examiner.

Prior Art Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 103 Sewall/Manjunath Rejection

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Sewall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,146) in view of Manjunath et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,518). Applicants respectfully traverses this rejection.

Amended independent claim 1 recites, "calculating a self similarity ratio value, representing a periodicity characteristic, and an autocorrelation coefficient value, representing a spectral characteristic, for an input signal segment, **wherein calculating the self similarity ratio value includes calculating a plurality of selectable self similarity ratio values and selecting the highest value from the plurality of values as the calculated self similarity ratio value.**"

Amended independent claim 11 recites, "calculating means for calculating at least one of a self similarity ratio value, representing a periodicity characteristic, and an autocorrelation coefficient value, representing a spectral characteristic, for an input signal segment, **wherein calculating the self similarity ratio value includes calculating a plurality of selectable self similarity ratio values and selecting the highest value from the plurality of values as the calculated self similarity ratio value.**"

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that Sewall does not disclose or suggest "calculating a self similarity ratio value, representing a periodicity characteristic" as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

On column 6, line 53, Manjunath discloses a speech coder which determines whether the frame is unvoiced speech by analyzing the periodicity of the frame. The periodicity of the frame is measured using either a normalized autocorrelation function or a zero crossing analysis. Using the periodicity value, Manjunath discloses that it is possible to determine whether a frame is

transitional speech, unvoiced speech, or voice speech and thereby decides how to manage the audio information. Manjunath does not teach **“calculating the self similarity ratio value includes calculating a plurality of selectable self similarity ratio values and selecting the highest value from the plurality of values as the calculated self similarity ratio value”** as recited in amended independent claim 1. Instead, Manjunath teaches determining the periodicity value based on zero crossings and the use of normalized autocorrelation functions.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that neither Sewall or Manjunath, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the features of amended independent claim 1. At least for the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claim 11 is also allowable. Furthermore, claims 2-10 and 12-21 are allowable because they derive from amended independent claims 1 or 11, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-21 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

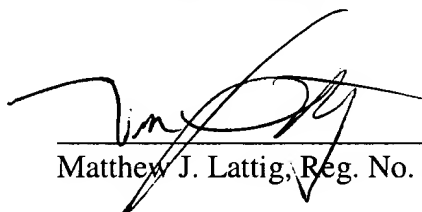
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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